

<b>FROM</b> Charles E. Becker, Clearwater, KS 67026			<b>CONTROL NO.</b> RGAD-85-273
<b>SUBJECT AND DATE</b> Undated RE: Request for investigations at several listed locations.... Cy of presentation at the Environmental Mtg in Wichita.			<b>DATE REC'D</b> 9/27/85
			<b>DUE DATE</b> 10/18/85 16
<b>REFERRED (1)</b> WSTM	<b>(2)</b> cc: RA/DRA	<b>(3)</b> cc: ARTX cc: WATR	<b>(4)</b> cc: ENSV
<b>DATE</b>			
<b>REPLY SENT TO</b>			<b>DATE RELEASED</b>
<b>REMARKS</b> <i>Rice's Office</i>			<b>ACKNOWLEDGED - DATE</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
			<b>NO ANSWER NEEDED</b> <input type="checkbox"/> (Explain in remarks)

EPA Form 5180-1 (6-72)  
REPLACES FWPCA FORM 72 AND  
NEW-73 WHICH MAY NOT BE USED.

(Remove this copy only, do not separate remainder.)

MAIL CONTROL SCHEDULE

30299061



Superfund

Cont. WSTM  
CC WATR  
ARTY  
ENSV  
RA/RA



I would like to see an investigation  
into a cave in on the north east 1/4 of  
Section 8 in Ohio Township that was  
once the site of a salt water disposal  
well at 325 feet deep next to the  
Missouri Pacific railroad and 79th  
street south. Also in that same quarter  
section to check for a possible burial  
site of hazardous wastes that is  
leaching out into the Spring Creek that  
runs through that property which is  
owned by Vulcan. The water that crosses  
79th street appears to be OK but when  
it crosses the Maddy property it is black.

There is also an abandoned and plugged  
well on the Young farm that also <sup>supposedly</sup> was a  
salt disposal well site. The southwest quarter  
of section 7 in Ohio Township and along  
the Railroad right of way.

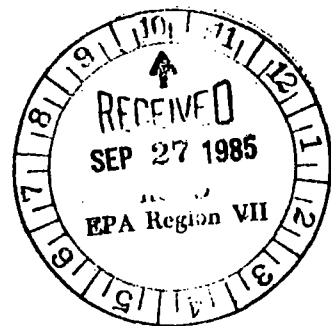
There is also another ~~deep~~ abandoned disposal well in Sec 13 in Ohio Township next to the railroad right of way.

I question if there was more than salt brine disposed of in these wells.

Another question is if there is a possible contamination of the Minnecossee river in the area of Dulcan's salt fields north west of Clearwater.

Sincerely  
Charles E Becker  
Clearwater, Ia  
67026

September 23, 1985



Morris Kay  
Regional Administrator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
726 Minnesota Ave.  
Kansas City, Ks. 66101

Dear Mr. Kay;

Re: This is copy of my presentation given in Wichita today,  
at the EPA meeting in the library.

In the past few weeks the residents in the area around the three Petro-Chemical plants, as well as other industrial facilities and utilities, have taken a very serious look at the ecological and environmental problems that we are faced with in our every day lives.

We are quite concerned about the people that live in the southwest part of the city, in rural Sedgewick County and the city of Haysville, in regard to the contamination threat that affects them concerning the management of the air and water quality in and around the area.

The increasing concern about the quality of our domestic water supply has been a question in the minds of our local people for sometime, also the increasing amount of air contamination that affects us in our everyday lives.

We question what is happening to our soil, the animals, the plants and the fish in our streams and ponds.

We feel that it is time that industry and agriculture address these problems with an ecological and environmental conscience.

The continuing growth of the petro-chemical complex in the area is of the greatest concern. We are not anti-business or anti-industry but we don't want to see anymore expansion until they can take care of what they have.

The petro-chemical industries are mining our water resources and salt deposit. At the rate we are going both will be exhausted or contaminated, and when that happens the companies will pick up their marbles and go elsewhere because these industries are in business strictly for capital gain, and we the taxpayers will be paying the bill for years to come and will pass it on to many generations.

Economics have driven us in agriculture and society in general into the open arms of the petro-chemical industries. This statement is an indictment of the whole of society, but we feel that it does not justify giving the chemical industry a free rein.

RECEIVED

SEP 30 1985

USEPA, RCRA Branch

How do we address these problems with all the bureaucratic and political frustrations that we must face. We have our local Health Dept., KDHE, the Attorney General's office, the Governor and his policy staff, the State Board of Agriculture, the Water Resources Board, the Kansas Water Plan and EPA. Even with the Governmental Cooperation Act, wherein does the final authority reside.

These agencies and staffs can either be a help or a hindrance.

I have seen changes in administration such as plant managers in the chemical companies, changes within the different levels of environmental ranks, changes in the political arena. Just about the time these people begin to ask themselves questions a new face appears and the education process begins again.

We feel that the State's regulatory agencies need to work with all the entities involved. We feel that unless the rules are not adhered to and enforced we just as well implement Sunset Laws and revert back to the law of the jungle and uncivilized society.

We realize that times and situations change, but the containment of the past residues in addition to more is reaching a point where there isn't a whole lot of room for it.

If these contaminants to both air and water can be maintained at a standard that is livable and with no consequence, we would consider additional growth, providing it doesn't change that status quo, and only if it will improve the situation and not trade one problem for another.

We live two miles west of the Vulcan plant on a 160 acre dairy farm and farm three 160 acre farms one half mile west of the Vulcan, Racon and Air Products plants. We have had to leave the fields and come back after the atmosphere or wind direction changed. We have also had to quit working on machinery at home in the yard in the evening and even in the farm shop and go to the house to escape the air pollution. In the past two weeks I've had to wear a mask two different mornings to do morning dairy chores. Over the past years we have seen a major chlorine break turn the leaves on trees brown all the way to McArthur Road, two miles north. Another time we saw the paint on the Vulcan plant change to a light green. Another time we were asked to leave the field so we wouldn't become sick. Our employee at the time did get sick to his stomach later that evening.

We have seen and photographed a major break on July 18th of hydrochloric acid and R 21 and R 22 refrigerant gases that formed a cloud nearly 2 miles long from the Racon plant.

What we are concerned about also is the volatile fumes that are emitted from the plant that we cannot see and cannot smell. These are the insidious unknowns that alarm us. We are subject to a constant emission of volatile fumes from all three of these chemical plants. There is no air monitoring done at these plants because there are no established standards as set by law. We are recommending to the state legislature that stack monitoring and standards be established and written into the law and enforced.

We feel that the burning of PCB's and the fine given is very insignificant for such a serious violation.

The fact is, is that the exposed sins of the past does not absolve the problems of the present, and let it not be a standard for tomorrow, just because it's cheaper to pay the fine. Why not let us improve the situation, and not be glossed over until the real crisis becomes impossible.

It is my opinion at this time that additional deep well disposal of Chemical wastes into the Arbuckle formation is not the answer, due to the corrosiveness of the materials and the continuing maintenance problems of operating such wells, and also because of producing oil wells in the Arbuckle strata in the close proximity.

I also see additional problems that will cause problems in maintaining an adequate wholesome domestic water supply in the rural area.

Because of the additional fresh water wells that have been placed in service over the last number of years from rural housing increases as well as competition of adjacent chemical manufacturing plants and an existing utility plant, the tremendous increase in the use of agricultural irrigation all around the area, and the proposed idea that the Vulcan company construct an additional co-generation electrical plant, the depletion of the water aquifer will cause additional problems.

First and foremost would be the shift of the contaminated water from beneath the Vulcan and Air Products plant, the shift in the salt water from the old abandoned Schulte oil fields as well as the pull of the salt intrusion from upstream from the Arkansas River basin and its' complications from the Lyons salt fields and the Stafford salt marshes, a shift in the Gladys oil field pollution east of the Vulcan plant and north of Haysville , and the shift in the pollution from a nearby sand pit, and now the recent announcement by KDHE of the contamination of the Skyline addition's domestic water supply from Cessna. The question is, how long will it be before these areas of contamination communicate, because of their geographic location to one another.

With the gradient water flow moving from Northwest to the Southeast there can be no doubt that these areas of contamination will eventually coincide.

Even with the interceptor wells on the plant site it cannot and is not being contained.

It has also been discovered that barium has contaminated domestic<sup>a</sup> wells to the southeast of these plants.

In reading test results data provided from KDHE information, the general migration is to the east and northeast even with the shut down of KG&E wells on the south side of their plant. These are not statements made from piecemeal information that we are accused of making.

The reason for the migration has been because of the long established use of a drainage ditch along the Missouri Pacific rite of way to the Northeast toward the Cowskin Creek and the percolation of those chemicals down into the

domestic water zone over a long number of years from Vulcan and KG&E.

We also know that there is leaching out of contaminated ground to the southwest of the plant which was used a good many years as a drain for run off and other supposedly accidental affluent discharges.

Even with the down coning of the interceptor wells it does not mean that the contamination is totally contained because even though test results show some improvement the real presence is still there because of the alpha cake landfill and I can't be fully convinced that this contamination is not escaping.

At any time be it day or night, we hear the code warning (horns blow) and depending upon the wind direction and velocity, the air pollution reaches us in about 5 minutes. Sometimes it lasts but a moment other times an hour or more.

We have many questions about this problem and the statements made about low levels of emission does not assure us of anything because that statement is as elusive as a butterfly.

How does this affect the plant life and the absorption of this pollution?  
How does this affect the soil?  
How much is too much and how do you measure it?  
How does it affect the animals?  
How does it affect the produce that comes from both plants and animals?  
Do we absorb this contamination in the food that we take from the plants and animals?  
Do these air particles affect our ponds and the fish therein?  
How long must we tolerate this hazardous nuisance?

I feel that with the advancing technology in this nation I am quite sure that these problems can be contained.

I feel a health study in and around the area should not be out of the question. Statistical information can be obtained from the Health Systems Agency, but I caution, that you can read almost anything you want out of Statistics. I served on this council for 5½ years. I also served on the Kansas Farm Bureau State rural health care committee for 5 years.

We and I am speaking now as chairman of a newly formed group of concerned citizens in the area that call themselves Neighbors Against Pollution, or N.A.P. are no longer napping about this problem.

In closing I want to say that Albert Einstein does not have an exclusive on relativity, because I feel these problems do relate.

Sincerely,

*Charles E. Becker*

Charles E. Becker  
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